REMARKS

This patent application presently includes Claims 1-7, all of which stand rejected. The claims are amended to define the applicant's invention more clearly, and all rejections are respectfully traversed.

The drawings were objected to, owing to element S203 in Fig. 5, including the word "first." The examiner correctly noted that it should be "second." Under separate cover, the undersigned is submitting herewith a marked-up version of Fig. 5 in which a proposed correction is indicated in red. It is requested that the examiner approve this correction.

The examiner objected to the specification at Page 9, Line 7 owing to the absence of a terminating quote symbol and at Page 10, Line 18, owing to the absence of a space in "Section16." With the present amendment, these typographical errors have been corrected.

Claim 5 was rejected as indefinite, the examiner noting that the claim does not conform with current U.S. practice and is replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors. With this amendment, Claim 5 has been reviewed and amended with an eye towards overcoming this rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as anticipated by Shalit, U.S. Patent No. 5,714,971. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Shalit does not teach or suggest the present invention.

All of the claims have been amended to recite that the category attributes may be present simultaneously and that no tree is connected to or stems from another tree That the first feature contemplated as a characteristic of the invention may be appreciated from the paragraph starting at Page 10, Line 6 of the application. Support for the second feature can be found in Fig. 6 and the discussion beginning at Page 11, Line 16, where it is plainly explained that according to the present invention, category attributes are selected separately and data endowed with those attributes is selected for display. For example, Fig. 6 shows two independent categories "content" and "context." Particular choices were made under each category and results are displayed which

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satisfy both selections. Context is not a sub-category under content, but they are completely independent.

In rejecting the claims, the examiner made reference to Fig. 8 of Shalit. This discussion will therefore refer to Fig. 8. As may be seen in Fig. 8, the second column merely represents a selected branch of the first column. The third column represents a selected branch of the second column, and so forth. Also, the choices in the first column are mutually exclusive. Accordingly, Fig. 8 is merely a convenient way to illustrate a single tree, and the category attributes are not capable of being selected simultaneously. Accordingly, Shalit fails to meet two limitations of the claims under discussion, nor does he even remotely suggest those limitations. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 2 are allowable.

Claims 3-7 were rejected as obvious over the Steppan article in view of Shalit. This rejection is respectfully traverse. Neither reference, nor the combination thereof renders the present claim obvious.

Referring to Fig. 1 of Steppan, it will be appreciated that this is merely another way of illustrating the same thing as Shalit. That is, this is a single tree in which the category attributes are mutually exclusive, and every tree is connected to every other tree or stems from another tree. Accordingly, the combination of Shalit and Steppan would not teach or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 3, 5 or 6. These claims are therefore believed to be allowable. The remaining claims depend from one of the proceeding claims and are believed to be allowable based upon their dependence from an allowable claim.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that the application, as a whole, receive favorable reconsideration and that all of the claims be allowed as presently constituted. Should there remain any unanswered questions, the examiner is requested to call the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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